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TO:	Examiner: Mark A. Osele
FROM:	William B. Gont, Esq.
DATE:	March 14, 2005
FAX NO.:	(703) 872-9306
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#4423 P.002

**MAR 14 2005****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the Application of:

James K. Ward, et al

Application No.: 10/675,438

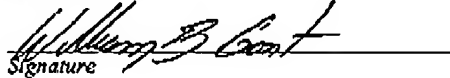
Filed: September 30, 2003

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD  
FOR FORMING A BUTT  
SPLICE

Examiner: Mark A. Osele

Group Art Unit: 1734

Attorney Docket No.: 12761US02

**CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION***I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (FAX No. (703) 872-9306) on March 14, 2005.**William B. Cont*  
Signature**AMENDMENT**Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Examiner Osele:

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed December 14, 2004.

This Amendment is timely because it is being submitted within the three month time period for reply, which expires on March 14, 2005. Please enter and consider the following.